GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2797
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2007
REPRESENTATIONS ON AUTONOMY OF TRAI
Gadhavi Shri Pushpdan Shambhudan

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations on the autonomy and independence of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI);

(b)if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the TRAI being self-governing body is giving representations to high level officials and Ministers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the subjects on which such representations have been given during the last one year; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure transparency by ensuring that action of regulatory authorities are not emanated?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a)&(b) No, Sir. However, the issues relating to recruitment/selection in Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) vis-Ã -vis its neutrality and fairness were raised in one representation.They were examined in detail and it was found that the prescribed procedure for appointment/selection of official in TRAI as given in the TRAI (Officers and Staff Appointment) Regulation, 2001 is being followed by them.

(c)&(d) To discharge its functions,TRAI has to frame various Regulations and make recommendations based on a clearly defined consultation process involving various stakeholders. TRAI also issues orders and directions in discharging of its functions as a regulator of the Telecom Sector.

During consultation process, presentations are required to be made to high-level officials of Government and Ministers, as Government is one of the stakeholders.

(e) During the last one-year, presentations were given on various issues like Licensing, sharing of spectrum and Unsolicited Commercial Calls. etc.

(f) Does not arise in view of (c) to (e) above.